

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising:  
communication unit for interconnection; and  
a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by a developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said communication unit;

the image forming system having memory to store usage histories of the latent image carriers of the image forming apparatuses and having a function of controlling selecting image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the carrier usage history data stored in the memory to achieve approximately the same deteriorated conditions.

2. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein the usage history of said latent image carrier is based on the number of transferred pages obtained with reference to an operating time or recording materials.

3. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein the usage history of said latent image carrier is modified according to a characteristic of deterioration through use of each latent image carrier.

4. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the usage histories of the latent image carriers of the image forming apparatuses are approximately the same.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising:  
communication unit for interconnection; and  
a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by a developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said communication unit;

the image forming system having memory to store developer usage histories data corresponding to a deterioration of a characteristic of the developer through use of the developer in the image forming apparatuses and having a function of controlling selecting image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the developer usage history data stored in the memory to achieve approximately the same deteriorated conditions.

6. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the usage history of the developer is based on the number of transferred pages obtained with

reference to an operating time of a developing device, which contains the developer and supplies it to the latent image carrier, or recording materials.

7. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the usage history of the developer is modified according to a characteristic of deterioration through use of the developer.

8. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the usage histories of the developer are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising:  
communication unit for interconnection; and  
a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by a developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said communication unit;

the image forming system having memory to store usage histories after maintenance of the image forming apparatuses and having a function of controlling ~~selecting~~ image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the usage history data to achieve approximately the same deteriorated conditions.

10. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 8, wherein the usage history after maintenance is based on the number of transferred pages obtained with reference to an operating time for image formation of the image forming apparatus or recording materials.

11. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the usage history after maintenance is modified according to a characteristic of deterioration through use of each image forming apparatus.

12. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the usage histories after maintenance are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

13. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising:  
a communication unit for interconnection; and  
a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by a developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said communication unit;

the image forming system having memory to store information related to an average black ratio of developer after replacement and having a function of controlling ~~selecting~~ image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the average black

ratio obtained from the information to achieve approximately the same deteriorated conditions.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 13, wherein the memory stores usage histories of the developer, calculates the photographic densities during image formation successively, and calculates the average photographic densities from the usage histories and the successively calculated photographic densities.

15. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 13, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the average photographic densities are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

16. - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein the developer contains color particles.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein a part or all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to each other via said communication unit are of different models.

20. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying a list of the image forming apparatuses selected for outputting the image.

21. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 20, further comprising an operating unit for giving an instruction to execute the output with specifying a part or all of the image forming apparatuses displayed on said display unit.

22.(Original) The image forming system according to claim 1, further comprising a host device control unit for selecting the image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on one of the data.

23. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 22, wherein said host device control unit is incorporated in at least one of the image forming apparatuses.

24. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 22, wherein said host device control unit is connected to said image forming apparatuses independently of the image forming apparatuses connected to each other.